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ABSTRACT

- A process for producing microcrystalline cellulose. The process comprising the following steps:
 - a) preparation of a pulp by repulping,
 - b) pressing of the pulp obtained in a),
- 10 c) decompaction of the pulp obtained in b),
 - d) feeding of the pulp obtained in c) into a pre-heated reactor,
 - e) cooking of the pulp at a temperature, a time and a pressure allowing to obtain a pulp having a desired degree of polymerisation,
 - f) cooling and partial controlled depressurisation of the reactor by purging the reactor, followed by a water injection into the jacket and directly into the reactor,
 - g) filtering the pulp obtained in f),
 - h) bleaching of the pulp obtained in g), and
 - i) drying the pulp obtained in h).
- The process allows the application of a controlled depressurisation in step f), which in turn allows to keep the natural texture of the fibers and to obtain a cellulose having a low degree of polymerization.